



**City of
Norfolk**

Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of City Council

FROM: Breck Daughtrey, City Clerk

COPIES TO: _____

SUBJECT: Minutes of Public Hearings

May 12, 2015

Attached are the minutes of the City Council Public Hearings held on Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7, 2015.

Breck

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
BUDGET HEARING
GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Fraim called the Budget Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley and Mr. Winn.

The opening prayer was offered by Vice Mayor Angelia Graves followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Fraim welcomed members of the public present for the hearing and reviewed the process for offering input.

He thereupon called for the first speaker.

Ms. Korinda Rusinyak, 815 Pecan Point Road, Norfolk, spoke in support of the Endependence Center and asked for continued funding.

Mr. Steve Johnson, 6300 E. Virginia Beach Boulevard, Norfolk, thanked Council for their continued support of the Endependence Center.

Mr. Robert Bond, 815 Pecan Point Road, Norfolk, asked for continued funding of the Endependence Center.

Dr. Kirk Houston, chair, Norfolk Public School Board, urged Council to fully fund the school budget and asked for help to close the \$4.8 million gap.

Dr. Michael Thornton, acting superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools, thanked Council for their continued commitment and support and asked for full consideration of the school budget.

Mr. Thomas Calhoun, 5443 Welaka Road, Norfolk, president, Norfolk Federation of Teachers, asked Council to fully fund the school board budget.

Mr. George Kelley, 1030 Grand Oak Lane, Virginia Beach, asked for continued funding to support teacher raises.

Ms. Marcia Elsbery, 3620 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk Federation of Teachers, asked for full funding of the school budget.

Ms. Tonya Bhasin, 1912 North Brandon Avenue, Norfolk Gains, asked for full funding of the school budget.

Mr. Phillip Hawkins, 3597 Mississippi Avenue, Norfolk, asked Council to fully support the school budget.

Ms. Yasmin Cooper, 212 W. 29th Street, Norfolk, asked for full funding of the school budget to provide teacher raises and for help to close the \$4.8 million gap.

Ms. Peggy Scott, 8405 Friden Street, asked Council to fully fund the school budget and for help to close the \$4.8 million gap.

Mr. Frank Batten, 7438 Flicker Point, Norfolk, asked Council to support the creation of a housing trust fund and target funds towards lower income citizens and for Section 8 Housing Voucher Program.

Ms. Thaler McCormick, Executive Director of ForKids, Inc., 4200 Colley Avenue, Norfolk Poverty Commission, asked Council to support the creation of a regional housing trust fund and asked for funding for the homeless and ForKids, Inc.

Mr. Ronald White, 1300 Longdale Drive, Norfolk, asked Council to support the affordable housing trust fund and ForKids, Inc.

Mr. William Milsap, 1300 Longdale Drive, Norfolk, asked Council to support the housing trust fund.

Mr. Ricky Ross, 6830 Orangewood Avenue, Norfolk, spoke in support of the city's proposed operating budget and funding for education.

Mr. Mike McKenna, 3124 Douglas Road, Chesapeake, thanked Council for reinstating the step plan and approving the DROP Program for police and for appointing a retiree to the Employee Retirement System Board. He asked for a pay increase for new police officers and certain senior officers and for a

COLA for retirees and pay raises for police safety to begin in July and not in January.

Ms. Vicki Love, 4419 Deacon Lane, Virginia Beach, spoke on retirees' issues and also asked for a COLA for retirees.

Mr. Richard Willard, 311 West 35th Street, Norfolk, spoke in support of city employees. He thanked Council for the pay increase and requested a 4-5% increase for Public Works employees next year.

Mr. Ray Mattes, 838 Granby Street, Norfolk, spoke in favor of the proposed BPOL tax exemption for new businesses.

Ms. Allison Anderson, 3809 Portsmouth Boulevard, Portsmouth, spoke in support of the proposed two-year exemption of the BPOL tax for new businesses.

Mr. Roy Martin, IV, 205 Sir Oliver Road, Norfolk, Chairman of the Norfolk Public Library Board of Trustees, expressed appreciation for Council's support of the library system.

Mr. Tom Jones, P.O. Box 3456, Norfolk, President of the Norfolk Public Library Foundation Board, thanked Council for supporting the library system.

Ms. Sue Doviak, 927 Magnolia Avenue, Norfolk, President of Friends of the Norfolk Public Library, thanked Council for support of the library system.

Mr. Richard Halvorsen, 8401 Norristown Road, Norfolk, requested Council to support funding for dredging the channel of Pretty Lake.

Ms. Sarah Ellis, 7321 Major Avenue, Norfolk, representing Food Bank, thanked Council for its past support of the Food Bank and requested continued support.

Ms. Charletta Williams, 392 South Battlefield Boulevard, Chesapeake, asked for full funding of the school system's budget.

Ms. Jane Bethel, 1142 Little Bay Avenue, Norfolk, asked for consideration of the employee union and expressed support for a COLA for retirees.

Mr. Danny Lee Ginn, 3844 Dare Circle, Norfolk, commented on the need for government transparency. He also commented on the cost of The Main hotel and conference center.

Ms. Toni Johnson, 1604 Basie Crescent, Portsmouth, Norfolk Federation of Teachers, asked Council for a 6% pay increase for teachers.

With no more speakers remaining, Mayor Fraim adjourned the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
REAL ESTATE TAX HEARING
GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Fraim called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley and Mr. Winn.

The opening prayer was offered by Councilman Paul Riddick followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Fraim next reviewed why the public hearing is being held and the process of public input.

He thereupon called for the first speaker.

Mr. Ricky Ross, 6830 Oranewood Avenue, Norfolk, supported having no real estate tax rate increase. He thanked Council for adjustments to the senior and disabled citizens' tax relief program.

Mr. Danny Lee Ginn, 3844 Dare Circle, Norfolk, asked for clarification on the real estate tax versus assessment and whether everyone will see a tax increase on their real property.

Ms. Brenda Kennedy, 1144 Bedford Avenue, Norfolk, asked for an explanation of the real estate assessment increase and the City Manager provided clarifying information.

Councilman Smigiel noted that a number of citizens from a neighborhood in his Ward were in attendance and were concerned that their assessments increased 10% based on what appeared to be the sale of two homes while assessments on other waterfront homes in Ocean View decreased. He added that when they asked for an explanation from the Assessor's Office that they were treated rudely. He suggested moving forward that the Assessor's Office communicate more clearly the process for establishing new assessed values and to provide advance notice to property owners.

Councilwoman Johnson concurred with Mr. Smigiel's request for clearer explanations of how values are arrived at.

Mayor Fraim suggested scheduling a discussion of these concerns at a regular Council meeting.

With no more speakers remaining, Mayor Fraim adjourned the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.